

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9
In 3rd

Housekeepers' Chat

Release Monday, October 20, 1930.

★ OCT 16 1930

U. S. Department of Agriculture

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: "Curtains for the Home." Information, including menu, from Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. D. A.

Bulletin available: "Window Curtaining," "Home Made Apple Butters."

Let's talk about curtains today. Fluffy-ruffly curtains for Betty Jean's pretty bedroom; sturdy, simple curtains for the nursery; checked gingham curtains for the sunshiny kitchen.

It's fun to select curtain material; to hem curtains; and to hang them on nice clean windows, in freshly-papered rooms.

Making curtains is not difficult. Of course it takes time. Say you have a brand new bungalow -- five rooms. Do you know how much material it will take to curtain the windows of this five-room house? About 60 yards, just for glass curtains. Draperies will take much more. But even at that, it's more economical, in the long run, to select durable material that will withstand sunlight and tubbing, and make the curtains yourself, than to spend the same amount of money for ready-made curtains, of poor quality. Believe it or not, that is a fact.

But we are not going to discuss 60 yards of curtain material today -- that's too much for one time. We are going to talk about Betty Jean's pretty bedroom. Betty Jean likes ruffles and dainty colors. She went to town, with her mother, to look at curtain material for the bedroom.

"Right this way," said the curtain saleslady, and she showed Betty Jean some beautiful curtain materials in dotted swiss, organdie, voile, marquisette, and net.

"Curtains of these materials," said the saleslady, "may be hung straight, and used alone, or with a valance and side draperies."

"What would you make the valance and side draperies of?" asked Betty Jean.

"Of poplin, cretonne, or glazed chintz," said the saleslady. "Or, if you don't care for side draperies, you can get a beautiful color effect by hanging thin fabrics, of different colors, together. For instance, this blue, hung over rose, gives a mauve effect. Isn't that attractive? And the blue, hung over yellow, appears green."



"That's pretty," said Betty Jean. "You must give lots of advice, about curtains. Do you think that ruffled curtains are appropriate in a bedroom?"

"Oh, absolutely," said the saleslady. "Ruffled curtains are informal, and particularly suitable in the bedroom. They may be used alone, with tie-backs or the same material, combined with side draperies and a valance, or crossed in the middle."

"Do you like white curtains in a bedroom?" asked Betty Jean.

"Well," said the saleslady, "cream color is generally best, though white curtains may be used, with white woodwork. In any case, curtains and ruffles should match in color."

Betty Jean finally decided on ruffled tie-back curtains of cream-colored voile. These dainty curtains will be hung over shades of glazed chintz-- a charming combination for a girl's room. She will not need any side draperies, with this combination.

"Now, let's look at curtain material for the kitchen windows," said Betty Jean's mother. "What would you suggest, for side draperies?"

"Something durable, and easy to launder," said the saleslady. "Side draperies of gingham are good, or glass toweling, or muslin. If you use a valance, make it a mere ruffle, so that it won't interfere with ventilation."

"What about glass curtains?" asked Betty Jean's mother.

"If kitchen windows must have glass curtains," said the saleslady, "omit the side draperies, and use a thin material, banded with bright color."

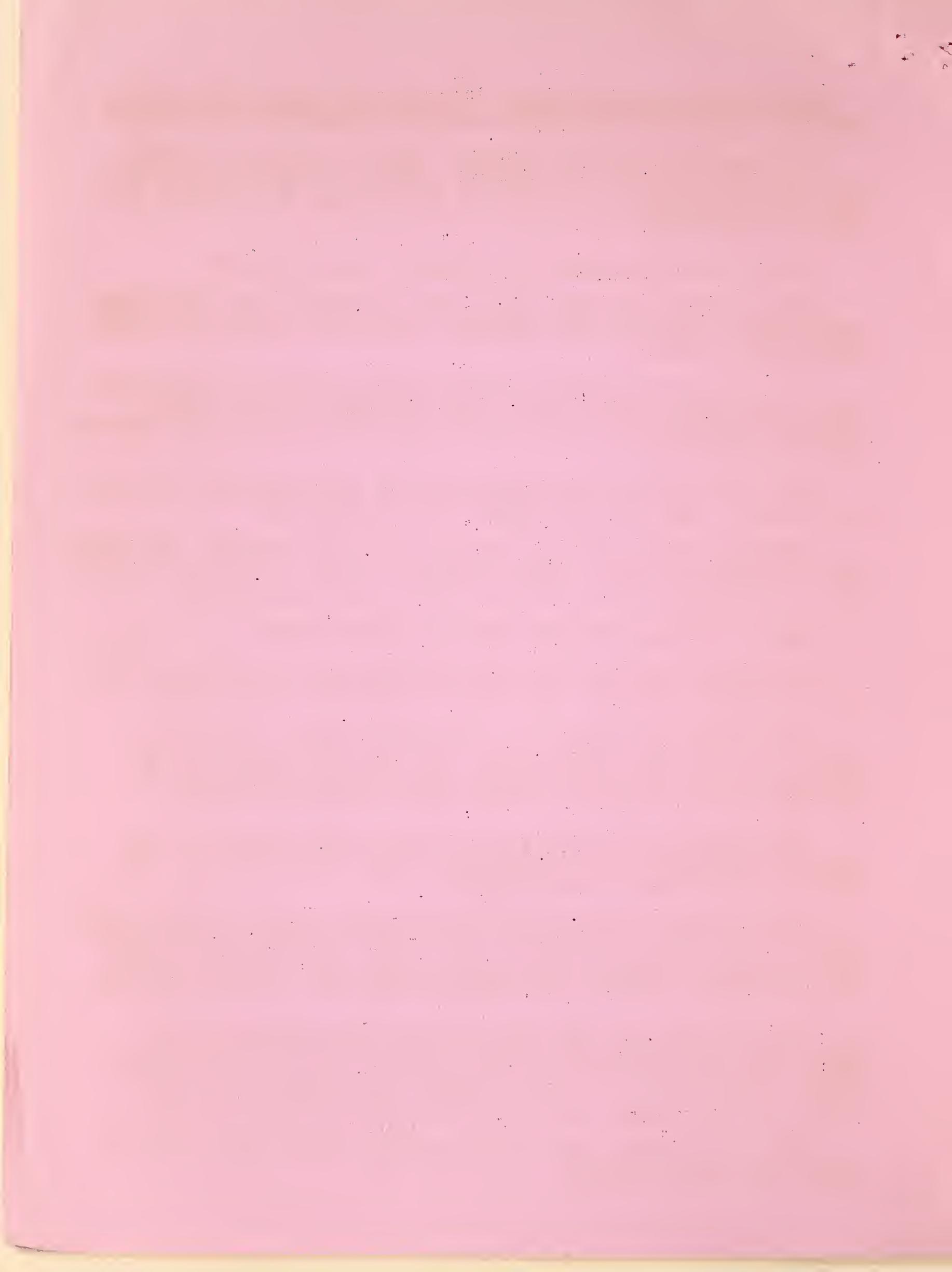
Betty Jean's mother decided not to buy glass curtains. Instead she bought yellow and white checked gingham with plain yellow gingham for the binding, and black bias tape for piping. The valance, across the top of the window, will be a very small double ruffle of the plain gingham.

"While we're here," said Betty Jean, "let's look at curtains for the nursery. Cousin Mary needs new curtains so badly, and she never gets away from Junior long enough to buy anything."

So they looked at curtain materials for Junior's nursery -- sturdy simple materials, with rather bright colors. They looked at English prints, gayly checked ginghams, brightly colored Japanese crepe. The saleslady suggested unbleached muslin, decorated with appliquéd motifs from a child's story book.

"If I had time," said Betty Jean, "I'd make the curtains for Cousin Mary, and use unbleached muslin, with motifs from one of Junior's story books. But I don't have time, so let's choose one of these pretty English prints. I like this one -- here's a quaint, small pattern, in blue and orange. Let's buy it now, take it home, and make the curtains tonight."

"Then call up Cousin Mary," said Betty Jean's mother, "and tell her to measure the nursery windows."



Betty telephoned. Cousin Mary was delighted. "Buy anything you like," she said. "I know my nursery curtains are a disgrace to the neighborhood. Come over in time for dinner, and we'll all sew curtains this evening,"

So, instead of a quilting party, they had a curtain party that evening. When the curtains were hemmed, and hung in the nursery, it looked like a different room -- it really did.

How do I know so much about it? Oh, I was there. I'm a sort of a relative of Betty Jean, and her mother, and Cousin Mary. In fact, they asked me about the curtains, before they went shopping. I gave Betty Jean's mother a copy of the new bulletin, "Window Curtaining," which came off the press last week.

It's a dandy bulletin -- tells all about making curtains for every room in the house. Does your curtain problem center around a bay window? Casement windows? Arched windows? Groups of windows? Do you want to know how to make curtains, and how to hang them? Whether draperies should be lined? How to line them? Are you in doubt about valances and side draperies?

Then send for this new bulletin, on "Window Curtaining." Miss Viemont of the Bureau of Home Economics wrote it, and she knows curtains, from valance to hem.

Before I forget it, let me tell you what Cousin Mary served for dinner last night, before we hemmed the nursery curtains. Cold Sliced Ham, was Cousin Mary's meat dish. Besides Cold Sliced Ham, she had Fried Green Tomatoes; Beets, Apple Butter; and Pumpkin Pie.

Her pie was delicious. I asked her where she found her recipe. Cousin Mary laughed.

"You ought to know, Aunt Sammy," said Cousin Mary. "It's from the green cookbook. Is it possible that you don't recognize the recipes from the radio cookbook?"

As I told Cousin Mary, I had forgotten about the Pumpkin Pie recipe. It's in the cookbook, all right, on page 66. And if you don't have pumpkin to use in your pie, you can substitute squash. Don't forget the seasonings -- cinnamon, allspice, and mace. That's what makes the pie so tasty. And don't burn the pie. Bake it in a moderately hot oven, until the filling sets.

Let's repeat the menu, once more: Cold Sliced Ham; Fried Green Tomatoes; Beets; Apple Butter; and Pumpkin.

Before we leave, let me mention again the curtain bulletin. It's the only publication we have which concerns interior decorating. "Window Curtaining" is the name; 1633 the number.

By the way, there's a bulletin on "Home-made Apple Butters," for those who'd like to have it.

Tomorrow: "Weight and Health."

